

16TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE AND EMS AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire and rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

As first responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Oftentimes, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

In 2012, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate the following winners, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district.

Manatee County Community Paramedicine Program was chosen to receive the Congressional Unit Citation Award.

Training Officer Christopher Stark of the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Congressional Dedication and Professionalism Award.

Chief Dennis Jones of the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue was chosen to receive the Congressional Career Service Award.

Division Chief-Fire Marshal Tammy Zurla was chosen to receive the Congressional Dedication and Professionalism Award.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AT CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the opening of the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing at Clinton Community College.

Clinton Community College serves as a member unit of the State University of New York system (SUNY), which allows students of diverse backgrounds across the state to access educational programs and services. Since its founding in 1966, Clinton Community College has promoted educational opportunities that enrich minds, strengthen the economy, and improve the quality of life in the North Country.

Clinton Community College is approaching completion of a 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility for its technology programs, which was made possible by a \$12.7 million award through the SUNY 2020 grant program. This new facility will feature flexible teaching

and learning spaces, as well as a variety of courses in transportation and manufacturing. These fields play an important role in local economic development, and the addition of this facility will continue Clinton Community College's legacy of bringing education and opportunity to the North Country.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate Clinton Community College on the opening of the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing. We are grateful for the College's commitment to educating our community, and hope that this addition serves it well for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE USS THE SULLIVANS DD-537/DDG-68 ASSOCIATION'S 27TH REUNION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and welcome the USS The Sullivans DD-537/DDG-68 Association to my hometown of Buffalo, New York on September 20th, 2017 as they celebrate their 27th reunion at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park.

On November 13, 1943, following the First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal during the Second World War, five brothers tragically lost their lives at sea when a Japanese torpedo struck and sunk the USS *Juneau* while sailing the Solomon Sea. Upon learning that George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan had all perished, President Roosevelt honored their memory by renaming DD-537 in their namesake as USS *The Sullivans*.

Since the Second World War, two ships, DD-537 and DDG-68 have proudly shared the name USS *The Sullivans* and the motto of "We Stick Together" in order to exemplify the courageous and enduring spirit of the Sullivan brothers. For over 70 years a USS *The Sullivans* has patrolled the world's waterways, thus preserving the peace and promoting international stability.

In the years since it was decommissioned, DD-537 has called the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park home. Located in Buffalo's Canalside district, USS *The Sullivans* DD-537 has served as a floating monument to the Sullivan brothers' enduring legacy as well as to the countless men and women who have served aboard a USS *The Sullivans* since 1943.

Mr. Speaker, it is again with great pride that I welcome the 27th reunion of the USS The Sullivans DD-537/DDG-68 Association to Buffalo, New York as they celebrate the storied legacy of their vessels in the company of fellow veterans and current service members.

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delaware County Community College on its 50th Anniversary.

Since its establishment in 1967, Delaware County Community College has educated thousands of students from southeastern Pennsylvania, giving them the skills they need for good-paying middle-class jobs in the modern economy. The college awards degrees in fields as diverse as accounting, carpentry, computer-aided drafting and nursing—and its distinguished faculty has always provided a first-class education to its students.

Mr. Speaker, as Delaware County Community College celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding, it's also celebrating a transition: Dr. Jerry Parker will retire after 40 years of service to the college, including 14 as President. He'll be succeeded by Dr. L. Joy Gates Black, who will be the first woman and the first African-American to lead the college.

I congratulate Dr. Gates Black on her appointment, I thank Board Chairman Michael L. Ranck for his service to our community, I wish Dr. Parker the best in his retirement and I hope Delaware County Community College enjoys another prosperous 50 years of educating hardworking Pennsylvanians.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR BETTY TSAI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Betty Tsai, a retired Bucks County Community College professor who started the Salute to Mothers Scholarship. The scholarship allocates funds for women who are attending Bucks County Community College while raising at least one child. This year is the tenth anniversary of the creation of the Salute to Mothers Scholarship, and it has raised over 120,000 dollars to date.

This scholarship is vital to providing mothers with greater career opportunities, and encouraging women to participate in our workforce. It is only available to mothers who possess a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and are enrolled in at least six credits for the upcoming semester. I appreciate the philanthropy that recognizes the struggles of balancing family and school, and thank Betty Tsai for her work to that end.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON TOAST- MASTERS POTOMAC CLUB

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Booz Allen Hamilton Toastmasters Potomac Club, a ten year Arlington, Virginia communications and leadership club, achieving significant success in its club and membership. Toastmasters International is a global, international communication community founded in 1904 by Dr. Ralph Chester Smedley.

Dr. Smedley, the director of a local YMCA, observed several young men who were not getting jobs. He took it upon himself to form a

speaking club, in which he mentored young members on how to shake hands, answer two to three minute table topics, improve nose to nose communication, practice skills of vocal variety, mitigate use of filler words, use their hands to maintain audience attention, and take constructive recommendations from peers. He also taught the young men how to "step away from the podium" and "dance your words".

Today, the Crystal City chapter of the club is a healthy, vibrant community of communicators in Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

In a record 4 months, the club grew from near critical to President's Distinguished, the Toastmasters International's highest club ranking.

I salute the Toastmasters Potomac Club for their dedication to living out the values of Toastmasters International's founder Dr. Ralph Chester Smedley.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN C. COUGHLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mr. John C. Coughlin on his retirement after an accomplished career, having served as a federal employee for 28 years.

Mr. Coughlin was born and raised in Bethesda, Maryland. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Naval Academy, was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, and served in the Navy's Aviation and Intelligence Office Program as a Command Pilot and Program Manager. After serving his country, Mr. Coughlin joined the Department of Energy in 1989, where he began an impressive career working with the Department's radiological emergency response assets. He served in various prestigious capacities, including the Director of the Office of Emergency Operations and Response, the Special Assistant to the Office of Self-Assessment and Emergency Management, the Director of the Threat Assessment Division for the Department's Programmatic and Nuclear Threat Programs, the first Director of the Office of Emergency Planning Preparedness and Operations here, within the U.S. House of Representatives, and most recently, the Assistant Sergeant at Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives. His work over the past 28 years has greatly benefitted our nation's security and preparedness in the event of an emergency, and we are grateful for all he's done to ensure the safety and readiness of our country.

Mr. Coughlin has had an outstanding career in public service, and I am pleased to recognize him both as an upstanding citizen and an exemplary resident of Maryland's 6th District. I congratulate Mr. Coughlin on a successful and impactful career and wish him all the best during his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JEDH COLBY BARKER

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decorated veteran and a true American hero from New Jersey's Fifth District, Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker. Corporal Barker grew up in Bergen County in New Jersey, and graduated from Park Ridge High School. In 1967, Corporal Barker was assigned to Fox Company in the Marine Corps, where he heroically defended his comrades in the line of fire during Operation Kingfisher. Corporal Barker's actions on this day earned him the most prestigious military decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I am including the Congressional Medal of Honor citation to highlight Corporal Barker's actions:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Company F. During a reconnaissance operation L/Cpl. Barker's squad was suddenly hit by enemy sniper fire. The squad immediately deployed to a combat formation and advanced to a strongly fortified enemy position, when it was again struck by small arms and automatic weapons fire, sustaining numerous casualties. Although wounded by the initial burst of fire, L/Cpl. Barker boldly remained in the open, delivering a devastating volume of accurate fire on the numerically superior force. The enemy was intent upon annihilating the small marine force and, realizing that L/Cpl. Barker was a threat to their position, directed the preponderance of their fire on his position. He was again wounded, this time in the right hand, which prevented him from operating his vitally needed machine gun. Suddenly and without warning, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the few surviving marines. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, L/Cpl. Barker threw himself upon the deadly grenade, absorbing with his body the full and tremendous force of the explosion. In a final act of bravery, he crawled to the side of a wounded comrade and administered first aid before succumbing to his grievous wounds. His bold initiative, intrepid fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of almost certain death undoubtedly saved his comrades from further injury or possible death and reflected great credit upon himself, the Marine Corps, and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

September 21, 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of Corporal Barker's remarkable patriotism and valor on the battlefield during the Vietnam War. The Marine Corps motto is, "Semper Fidelis", meaning, "always faithful". Corporal Barker lived and embodied that to the fullest. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker, a true American hero. His family, the Fifth District, and all Americans should be proud of Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker. His memory and heroism in the line of duty will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON HONOR FLIGHT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize 26 Oregon veterans who traveled here today to visit Washington, D.C. These brave men and women risked their lives to protect and defend the United States and have now come to our nation's capital to visit the monuments and memorials they helped inspire. The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: Archie Brown, Richard "Dick" Burling, Robert "Bob" Burness, Louis "Caldonia" Caldarelli, Francis Charriere, Harold Engelen, Donald "Red" Eudaly, Wilhelm "Bill" Guttormsen, Jack Hartung, Vidus "Vince" Klune, Robert "Bob" Jewitt, James "Jay" Majors, Glen McCall, Andrew "Andy" McDermaid, Larry D. Miller, Barbara "Jeanne" Moss, Hal Pally, Robert "Bob" Petchell, Robert "Bob" Schug, Sylvester "Pat" Smith Jr, Martin Spellman, Patricia "Patty" Sprigg, John Steigleder, Ralph Thompson, William "Bill" Walker, and Alan Lertzman.

RECOGNIZING B3CG INTERCONNECT IN PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate B3CG Interconnect on the opening of their new plant in Plattsburgh, New York.

B3CG is a world leader in the manufacturing of cable, harnessing and electrical mechanical assembly. In 2009, the owners of B3CG decided to expand their business from its headquarters in Saint-Eustache, Quebec, and open a second plant in Plattsburgh, New York. This move has allowed B3CG to expand their business within the United States, contributing greatly to the North Country economy in the process.

With B3CG now moving into a new facility in Plattsburgh, we can reflect on all of the company's important work in the transportation, medical and industrial sectors, as well as their contributions to the upstate community. By employing state of the art manufacturing technology and a dedicated local workforce, B3CG has built a strong relationship with the people of New York's 21st District, one which we are excited to continue.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank B3CG Interconnect for its contributions to the North Country and wish it the best of luck in its new location.